

MARCH 10, 1976

PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

ANNCR:

THE ISSUE OF UNITED STATES EXPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND HOW TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE USED SOLELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IS BEING DEBATED BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES IN WASHINGTON. VOA NEWS ANALYST EDWARD CONLEY HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE:

THERE'S A SENTIMENT IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS...BECOMING INCREASINGLY VOCAL..THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT ITS POLICY OF PROVIDING NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO OTHER NATIONS FOR THE PEACEFUL EXPLOITATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY. THIS LEGISLATIVE REAPPRAISAL FOLLOWS THE SURPRISE EXPLOSION OF AN ATOMIC DEVICE BY INDIA IN 1974, THE WEST GERMAN SALE TO BRAZIL OF A NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING SYSTEM WHICH SOME FEAR COULD BE USED FOR PRODUCING WEAPONS, AND THE PRESENT ATTEMPT BY FRANCE TO SELL A SIMILAR SYSTEM TO PAKISTAN. U.S. LAWMAKERS ARE NOW WONDERING ALOUD ABOUT THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION TO END SUCH PRACTICES, WHICH THEY FEEL ARE OMINOUS SIGNS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION AND A THREAT TO NATIONAL AND WORLDWIDE SECURITY.

AT A SENATE HEARING THIS WEEK, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER VOICED THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN THAT MATERIALS USED TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR ENERGY NOT BE USED TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

(OPT) HE CITED THE SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC EFFORT WHICH CANCELLED THE SALE BY FRANCE OF A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT TO SOUTH KOREA, AND CURRENT STRONG REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST THE PROPOSED SALE OF SUCH A PLANT BY FRANCE TO PAKISTAN. DOCTOR KISSINGER SAID U.S. FUEL BEING SOLD TO INDIA IS NOT BEING USED TO MAKE

NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BUT HE ADDED A CONTINUATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS BY THAT COUNTRY WOULD REPRESENT "A RECKLESS QUALITY THAT WOULD UNDERMINE REGIONAL STABILITY." (END OPT)

WHILE AGREEING WITH GROWING CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, THE SECRETARY OF STATE URGED THAT THE PROBLEM BE ATTACKED THROUGH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL FORUMS RATHER THAN THROUGH UNILATERAL ACTION.

DOCTOR KISSINGER ARGUED THAT A BAN ON U.S. SALES OF NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES WOULD CAST DOUBTS ON "THE CREDIBILITY OF U.S. SUPPLY COMMITMENTS AND THE CONSTANCY OF U.S. POLICY" AT WHAT HE CALLED "PRECISELY THE MOMENT WHEN (THE U.S.) CAN LEAST AFFORD SUCH DOUBTS."

HE SAID A JOINT EFFORT BY THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION TO WITHHOLD SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR FUELS TO WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE BECAUSE OF CERTAIN SALES POLICIES WOULD PROVE OF THE UTMOST GRAVITY, SINCE IT WOULD BE DIRECTED AT TWO OF AMERICA'S CLOSEST ALLIES.

SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CAN BEST BE CHanneled THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS AND MEETINGS OF THE WORLD'S NUCLEAR SUPPLIER NATIONS. AT THE U.N., THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO CALL FOR WIDE ADHERENCE TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND THE RIGHT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY TO ESTABLISH SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT NUCLEAR EXPORTS ARE USED ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

WASHINGTON WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF MULTINATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTERS WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR AND POSSIBLE MISUSE OF WIDESPREAD INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES. IN ITS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE WORLD'S OTHER EXPORTERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS...THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE...WASHINGTON

WILL WORK FOR AGREEMENT ON MORE BINDING RESTRAINTS ON THE SALES OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANTS, AND IS HOPEFUL OF INCREASED COOPERATION FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE.

DESPITE THE CALL BY SOME LEGISLATORS FOR QUICK U.S. ACTION TO STOP NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, IT SEEMS LIKELY THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE GIVEN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO WORK FOR CLOSER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ITS VIGOROUS NON-PROLIFERATION CAMPAIGN...A CAMPAIGN WHICH DOCTOR KISSINGER SAYS MUST BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO SUCCEED IN ORDER TO CREATE A MORE STABLE WORLD ORDER.